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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,393	10/17/2000	Matthew Squire	2204/A19	3271

34845 7590 06/29/2005

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EXAMINER
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SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/690,393

**Applicant(s)**

SQUIRE ET AL.

**Examiner**

Salad E. Abdullahi

**Art Unit**

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/10/2005 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 filed 5/10/2005 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tappan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,603,756[Tappan] in view of Ayandeh U.S. Patent No. 6,069,895 [hereinafter Ayandeh].

As per claim 1, Tappan discloses a method for distributing routing information through a plurality of network devices (see fig. 6, elements I-ASBR, TR1A, TR1B, ABR1 etc) the plurality of network devices being members of domain having a defined policy relating forwarding of routing information, the method comprising:  
receiving, from outside the domain (external domain or external source i.e. router S), an information message at a network device (I-ASBR), in the domain, the information message having routing information (see fig. 6, and col. 6, lines 16-27); and  
flooding the filtered routing information to each of the plurality of network devices (see col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 25).

Tappan is silent regarding:

modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference attribute to the routing information,  
the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device

Ayandeh discloses in an analogous art discloses a method for propagating routing information to its neighboring router including modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference attribute to the routing information, the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device (i.e., identifying any changes and applying appropriate routing policies) a received routing information using predetermined policy (see col. 4, lines 30-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Ayandeh such as modifying the routing information by applying a given policy to allow selective generation of routing update

Art Unit: 2157

messages (i.e., filtered) by an inter-domain router for its neighboring peer routers within autonomous systems to avoid generation of unnecessary routing updates in order to preserve network bandwidth utilization [see col. 3, lines 5-10].

In considering claim 2, Tappan discloses the method as defined by claim 1, wherein the pluralities of network devices are in a ring connectivity(see fig. 6).

In considering claim 3, Tappan discloses the method as defined by claim 1, wherein the plurality of network devices comprises at least three network devices, the at least three network devices including a given network device that is connected with no more than one other of the plurality of network devices (see fig. 6, elements in the domain 44).

In considering claim 4, Tappan discloses the method as defined by claim 1, wherein the act of flooding comprises adding a link state advertisement header to the policy filtered routing information (see fig. 7, and col. 7, lines 6-60).

In considering claim 5, Tappan discloses the method as defined by claim 1, wherein the policy filtered routing information comprises the received routing information in the information message (col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54).

In considering claim 6, Tappan discloses the method as defined by claim 1, further comprising storing the routing information in local data storage (see col. 1, lines 23-38).

Art Unit: 2157

In considering claim 7, Ayandeh discloses the method as defined by claim, wherein the given policy is set by an administrator (see col. 6, line 50 to col. 7, line 2).

As per claim 8, Tappan disclose discloses an apparatus for distributing routing information through a plurality of network devices, the plurality of network devices being members of a single domain, each of the network devices operating in accord with given policy relating to routing information, the method comprising:  
receiving, from outside the domain (external domain or external source i.e. router S), an information message at one of the network devices (I-ASBR), the information message having routing information (see fig. 6, and col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54); and  
flooding the policy filtered routing information to each of the plurality of network devices (see col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 25).

Tappan is silent regarding: modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference attribute to the routing information, the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device.

Ayandeh discloses in an analogous art discloses a method for propagating routing information to its neighboring router including modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference attribute to the routing information, the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device (see col. 4, lines 30-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Ayandeh such as modifying the routing information by applying a given policy to allow.

Art Unit: 2157

selective generation of routing update messages (i.e., filtered) by an inter-domain router for its neighboring peer routers within autonomous systems to avoid generation of unnecessary routing updates in order to preserve network bandwidth utilization.

In considering claim 9, Tappan discloses the apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the plurality of network devices are in a ring connectivity(see fig. 6).

In considering claim 10, Tappan discloses the apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the plurality of network devices comprises at least three network devices, the at least three network devices including a given network device that is connected with no more than one other of the plurality of network devices (see fig. 6, elements in the domain 44).

In considering claim 11, Tappan discloses the apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the act of flooding comprises adding a link state advertisement header to the policy filtered routing information (see fig. 7, and col. 7, lines 6-60).

In considering claim 12, Tappan discloses the apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the policy filtered routing information comprises the received routing information in the information message (col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54).

Art Unit: 2157

In considering claim 13, Tappan discloses the apparatus as defined by claim 8, further comprising storing the routing information in local data storage (see col. 1, lines 23-38).

In considering claim 14, Tappan discloses the apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the given policy is set by an administrator (commonly administered network shows the given policy is set by an administrator)(see col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, line 35).

As per claim 15, Tappan disclose a program product for use in a network device in first domain of network devices, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, the computer readable product code comprising:

a program code for receiving an information message the information message having routing information (see fig. 6, and col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54);

a program code for applying the given policy (i.e. the policy of the domain 44) of the network device that received the information message to the routing information in the information message to produce policy filtered routing information (see col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54); and

a program code for flooding the policy filtered routing information to each of the plurality of network devices (see col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 25).

Tappan is silent regarding: a program code for modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference



Art Unit: 2157

attribute to the routing information, the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device

Ayandeh discloses in an analogous art discloses a method for propagating routing information to its neighboring router including modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference attribute to the routing information, the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device(see col. 4, lines 30-64).Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Ayandeh such as modifying the routing information by applying a given policy to allow selective generation of routing update messages (i.e., filtered) by an inter-domain router for its neighboring peer routers within autonomous systems to avoid generation of unnecessary routing updates in order to preserve network bandwidth utilization .

In considering claim 16, Tappan discloses the computer program product as defined by claim 15, wherein the plurality of network devices are in a ring connectivity (see fig. 6).

In considering claim 17, Tappan discloses the computer program product as defined by claim 15, wherein the plurality of network devices comprises at least three network devices, the at least three network devices including a given network device that is connected with no more than one other of the plurality of network devices (see fig. 6, elements in the domain 44).

Art Unit: 2157

In considering claim 18, Tappan discloses the computer program product as defined by claim 15, wherein the act of flooding comprises adding a link state advertisement header to the policy filtered routing information (see fig. 7, and col. 7, lines 6-60).

In considering claim 19, Tappan discloses the computer program product as defined by claim 15, wherein the policy filtered routing information comprises the received routing information in the information message (col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54).

In considering claim 20, Tappan discloses the computer program product as defined by claim 15, further comprising storing the routing information in local data storage (see col. 1, lines 23-38).

In considering claim 21 Tappan discloses the computer program product as defined by claim 15, wherein the given policy is set by an administrator (commonly administered network shows the given policy is set by an administrator)(see col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, line 35).

As per claim 22, Tappan discloses a network device (IASBR) in a first domain (44) operating in accord with given policy relating to routing information, the network device comprising:

an input coupled with a network device (router S) in a second domain (out side domain), the input receiving outside the domain (external domain or external source i.e., router

Art Unit: 2157

S), an information message at one of the network devices (I-ASBR), the information message having routing information (see fig. 6, and col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54); modifying the routing by the network device that received the information message to the routing information in the information message to produce policy filtered routing information (see col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 54); and flooding the policy filtered routing information to each of the plurality of network devices (see col. 8, line 51 to col. 9, line 25).

Tappan is silent regarding: a policy module coupled with the input, the policy module modifying the routing information for forwarding to a peer network device internal to the domain, by adding a local preference attribute to the routing information, the local preferences attribute is selected by the network device

Ayandeh discloses in an analogous art discloses a method for propagating routing information to its neighboring router including modifying (i.e., updating) a received routing information using predetermined policy (see col. 4, lines 30-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Ayandeh such as modifying the routing information by applying a given policy to allow selective generation of routing update messages (i.e., filtered) by an inter-domain router for its neighboring peer routers within autonomous systems to avoid generation of unnecessary routing updates in order to preserve network bandwidth utilization.

Art Unit: 2157

In considering claim 23, Tappan discloses the network device as defined by claim 22, further comprising a link state module for adding a link state advertisement header to the policy filtered routing information (see fig. 7, and col. 7, lines 6-60).

### **CONCLUSION**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 703-308-8441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Abdullahi Salad  
Examiner Au 2157  
6/23/2005